

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Flora Boreali-Americana.** *André Michaux.* Introduction by *Joseph Ewan.* Hafner Press, A Division of Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., New York. 1974. (Facsimile of the 1803 Edition). Vol. 1, xlv+330 pp.; Vol. 2, 340 pp. \$40.

Based on the personal observations and collections of André Michaux, this book is considered the first North American *Flora*. The manuscript was left unfinished because of A. Michaux's death, but was prepared for publication by his son François André, assisted anonymously by Louis Claude Marie Richard. Originally published in Paris in 1803 and reprinted there in 1820, the *Flora* is reported to include 528 genera and 1530 species of vascular plants in addition to some cryptograms exclusive of fungi. Many new taxa are described. Other characteristics are its (1) arrangement in the Linnaean Sexual System, (2) descriptions in Latin, (3) scant information on locality and habitat data with some extensive observations on certain taxa, and (4) 51 clear line drawings of selected plants. Naturally coverage was incomplete, but notable features of this primer *Flora* are (1) the inclusion of only species Michaux himself had examined in his travels, (2) the breadth of its geographic coverage—ranging south from the Bahamas and Florida, north to Hudson Bay, and west to the Mississippi River in Illinois—all areas where Michaux traveled during his stay in North America from 1785 to 1796, and (3) a first inventory of weeds for the United States. The work arose as a result of Michaux's being sent to the United States by the French government to establish botanic gardens for the exchange, cultivation, and testing of American plants for the French economy, primarily; and to study the American flora in general, secondarily.

Professor Ewan's introduction provides great insight and background for the *Flora* as well as for both of the Michauxs. Included are (1) F. A. Michaux's introduction to the *Flora* translated from the French, (2) a commentary on the surviving A. Michaux collections plus a few others that validate the *Flora*, (3) a list of the 10 botanical references cited by A. Michaux, (4) a gazetteer of place names visited, (5) responses to the *Flora* by Michaux's contemporaries, (6) a reprinting of the French text of A. Michaux's 1792 paper on rare or new plants observed in North America, (7) F. A. Michaux's catalogue of seeds sent from Charleston to Paris in 1802, (8) a chronology of A. Michaux's life, (9) 43 footnotes to material in Ewan's introduction, and (10) a list of 27 references of which some are annotated. Being volume three of the *Classica Botanica Americana* Series, which are facsimile reprints of early important North American floras, editor Ewan has again provided great service to plant taxonomists, botanical historians, and others interested in early Americana. Only volume two, Pursh's 1814 *Flora Americae Septentrionalis* remains to be published to complete the 7-volume series and its two supplements.

RONALD L. STUCKEY

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**Mushrooms in Their Natural Habitats.** *Alexander H. Smith.* Hafner Publishing Company Inc., New York, (hardcover reprint), 1973. xiv+626 p. \$14.95.

Apparently the demand for this out-of-print volume by those involved with courses dealing with the study of mushrooms prompted its being reprinted. As a benefit to readers seeking an illustrated manual, it must be pointed out that this reprint is *only* text material and represents an authoritative account without pictures. The companion volume (vol. 2) consisting of 231 stereochromes and viewmaster, has *not* been reprinted as yet, nor is it included with the present volume.

The text provides comprehensive data for distinguishing 231 species. Also included are techniques for collecting and preparing specimens for study and notes on fruiting habits. The edibility and poisonous properties of fungi, mushroom cookery (with 19 recipes), and mushroom poisoning are discussed.

This book will find a place in the classroom and on the bookshelves of all avid mushroom collectors. It is unfortunate, however, that the publisher was unable to duplicate or reprint in some fashion the beautiful stereochromes of volume 2, which would have made this reprint a valuable contribution.

ROLAND SEYMOUR

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**Potential Use of Beneficiated Ohio Clay in the Rubber Industry.** *Richard W. Carlton.* Ohio Division of Geological Survey Report of Investigations No. 89, Fountain Square, Columbus, Ohio 43224. 1973. 11 p. \$0.50 plus 5¢ handling charge and 2¢ sales tax in Ohio.

The rubber industry in Ohio uses large quantities of kaolin each year. However, although Ohio has extensive deposits of clay relatively rich in kaolinite, no locally mined clay is used by the industry. This report describes tests made on various Ohio clays and shales to determine their suitability for use in the rubber industry. Some beneficiated Ohio clays compare well with kaolin in all tests except brightness. The conclusion is that Ohio clays may become competitive with kaolin as advances in bleaching and clay mineral separation techniques are made.

OHIO DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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